

Commissioner Deborah A. Gist's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, July 22, 2011

Note from Commissioner Gist:

1. RIDE [e-mail](#) problems resolved

From the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE):

2. U.S. Department of Education approves [Race to the Top](#) performance-monitoring plan
3. Rhode Island Model [training for evaluators](#) starts Monday
4. RIDE to hire district administrators to provide [evaluation training](#); RIDE to reimburse districts for costs

From the U.S. Department of Education:

5. Comments sought on Common Education [Data Standards](#)
6. Department issues information on use of [Title I](#) allocations

Action Item Calendar

Today (July 22): Housing-aid reimbursement forms due
Monday (July 25): Educator evaluators training-registration deadline
Thursday (July 28): Absences, ADA, ADM, Suspension reports due
July 31: Fire, evacuation, lockdown drill reports due

Note from Commissioner Gist:

1. RIDE e-mail problems resolved

Thank you for your patience as we have worked to resolve the problems that have plagued the RIDE exchange server over the past two weeks. It appears as of today that our terrific team in the Office of Network and Information Systems has resolved the problem. E-mail to and from RIDE should be back to normal today. We realize that some e-mail over the past two weeks may have been lost, so if you were expecting an important e-mail or if you sent us one and have not received a reply, please resend or give us a call or follow-up message.

From RIDE:

2. U.S. Department of Education approves Race to the Top performance-monitoring plan

Please see this notice from our Race to the Top team:

The Rhode Island Race to the Top Performance Monitoring Plan has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education and is now [posted](#) on the RIDE Web site. The plan describes how we will monitor LEAs' programmatic and fiscal implementation of Race to the Top. This includes an explanation of how the Collaborative Learning for Outcomes (CLO) process will enable groups of LEAs to manage performance toward results by engaging in data-driven, problem-solving conversations with their peers and with

RIDE and how we will use the CLO process as a way to monitor subrecipient performance. As a reminder, the LEA groupings and calendar for the CLO process are also [posted](#) on our Web site.

3. Rhode Island Model training for evaluators starts Monday

Please see this notice from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

Our educator-evaluation team and intermediary-service providers (ISPs) are thrilled to launch evaluator training on Monday. District and school leaders from across the state will be attending the first sessions of Module 1 for personnel evaluating teachers. This initial session is designed to give evaluators a detailed overview of the model and to support them in launching this work with their staff. Evaluators will also receive a copy of the [RI Model Guide](#) to Evaluating Building Administrators and Teachers at this training.

The registration deadline for all Module 1 trainings is **Monday, July 25**. Anyone who will be evaluating teachers or building administrators should register for Module 1 training as soon as possible by [clicking here](#).

As we announced last week, registration for Module 2 for personnel evaluating teachers has begun. To register for Module 2 for personnel responsible for evaluating teachers, please follow these directions:

Visit the workshop calendar section of the RIDE Web page, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/applications/ridecalendar.aspx>

In the calendar, locate the date on which you would like to attend a session for “Module 2 for Personnel Evaluating Teachers: Preparing for Beginning-of-Year Conferences” and click on your desired time slot (sessions are typically offered once in the morning and once in the afternoon).

Click on “Register Now”; then click the green “Register” button.

Log in using an existing eRIDE account or create a workshop-registration account, and click on the green “Register” button a second time.

Select the session you wish to attend and scroll to the bottom to verify your registration and contact information.

If you are registering only yourself, click “Register Myself.” You should receive a “Successfully Registered!” message, and your registration will be complete.

If you want to register multiple participants, click “Register Others” and complete a separate registration form for each person. This option allows a single user to register a group of participants for a training module.

As always, your feedback and questions are welcome, at EdEval@ride.ri.gov.

4. RIDE to hire district administrators to provide evaluation training; RIDE to reimburse districts for costs

Please see this notice from our Office of Educator Quality and Certification:

We are committed to providing you with the very best support possible as you implement the Educator Evaluation Models in your districts. In addition to the training modules, guide books, and webinars that we will offer administrators and teachers, we are committed to developing a cadre of *Evaluation Intermediary Service Providers* (Evaluation ISPs) to provide on-the-ground support to you. Although we are disappointed that we cannot move forward with our original group of retired educators, we now have an alternate pathway available to support you.

We would like to supplement our newly identified ISPs with administrators currently working in your district. Our intent is to replicate the model we're using for Induction Coaches – that is, hiring the very best applicants to be released from their districts for two years so that they can be trained to provide support to districts across the state. There are two options:

- Releasing an administrator for 90 days each year. We would provide funding for your district to hire a retired administrator to work with the released administrator in order to provide seamless services during their absence.

- Releasing an administrator for the entire year. We would reimburse your district for their salary during this period.

Please [click here](#) for the application package. We encourage you to share this information, and we thank you for any help you can provide in supporting applicants from your district. We understand that it is difficult to release highly capable administrators, but we believe the investment you will be making in their growth and understanding of the evaluation model will be wise in the long run. Please call Mary Ann Snider, at 222-8492, if you have any questions.

From the U.S. Department of Education

5. Comments sought on Common Education Data Standards

Please see this notice from the National Center for Education Statistics and the Common Education Data Standards Initiative:

The Common Education Data Standards Initiative has releases [Draft 1 of Version 2](#) of the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS). Comments are due **August 15**.

Background: CEDS supports the development of a common data vocabulary. It is a collection of definitions and formats for the most commonly used education data elements. CEDS does not dictate how individual data systems collect, store, and report data. It is the Initiative's hope that the standards will garner wide acceptance and voluntary adoption across all sectors of the education community to increase our ability to share and compare data consistently, allow more informed decision-making at all levels, and promote better

educational outcomes for all students through early childhood, K12, postsecondary completion, and the workforce.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) leads the CEDS development with the guidance, input, and participation of a broad range of education stakeholders. Version 1 of CEDS was released in September 2010. The first draft of Version 2, released this week, includes additional elements of interest to both K12 and postsecondary stakeholders. The second draft of Version 2 is scheduled to be released for public comment in the fall of 2011. The second draft will include: additions to the K12 and postsecondary elements seen in the first draft, early-learning data elements, assessment elements, and changes to the first draft based on this public comment period.

To get involved:

*Review and comment on the standards by **August 15**.* Click [here](#) to review and comment on CEDS. NCES is logging and reviewing every comment.

Inform your colleagues about CEDS. CEDS is important to all sectors and levels of education – policymakers, practitioners, and those charged with collecting and reporting data. Please forward this e-mail widely and encourage engagement in the process. NCES needs your input.

Keep up with CEDS' progress. Stay informed about all of the work of the CEDS Initiative by joining the CEDS Consortium's listerv:

<http://commoneddatastandards.org/get-involved/>

6. Department issues information on use of Title I allocations

Please see this information from the U.S. Department of Education:

To aid in some key calculations, the Department has published Fiscal Year 2011 Title I allocations by school district. Under *No Child Left Behind*, districts must spend up to 20 percent of their Title I, Part A, allocation to cover school choice-related transportation costs and to pay for supplemental educational services. Districts have some discretion to determine the allocation of funds between transportation and supplemental services, but all districts must spend at least a quarter (5 percent) of the 20-percent “reservation” on each activity if there is demand for both. Further, for supplemental services, districts are required to pay the lesser of the actual cost or an amount equal to the district’s Title I, Part A, allocation divided by poor students in the district, as determined by estimates produced by the Census Bureau. For more information, go to:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/titlei/fy11/>.